THE WEEKLY

George Mason University's Amarda Shehu Appointed Inaugural Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer

George Mason has named Associate Vice President for Research for the Institute for Digital Innovation (IDIA) Amarda Shehu as the university's inaugural vice president and chief artificial intelligence officer (CAIO). Shehu will spearhead university-wide research and programs, attract AI talent, and ensure compliance with ethical standards and regulatory requirements.

Learn more about how Shehu will be a transformative force in taking George Mason to the top of this field and advancing innovation the Commonwealth of Virginia.

NEWS

George Mason to Launch Nation's First Center for Small Business AI Innovation with $1M Grant

In a groundbreaking move set to bolster the economic competitiveness of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across

Virginia, George Mason University has been awarded a $1 million grant to establish the nation's first Center for AI Innovation for Economic Competitiveness (CAIIEC).

This pioneering initiative, led by J.P Singh and Amarda Shehu, aims to place Virginia at the forefront of artificial intelligence (AI) adoption among SMEs, which often fly under the radar in discussions dominated by federal and big-tech AI advancements.

Learn more here.

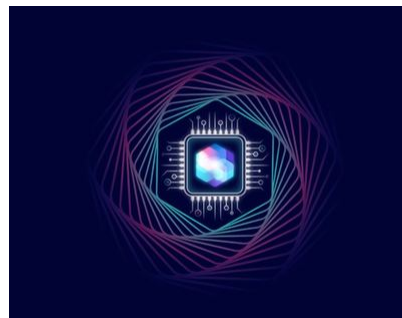---

VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES

ARPA-H Program: PRECISE-AI

The Performance and Reliability Evaluation for Continuous Modifications and Useability of Artificial Intelligence (PRECISE-AI) program aims to develop capabilities that can automatically detect and mitigate AI model degradation. These tools will monitor the performance of clinical AI models, identify if a degradation has occurred, and provide capabilities that can correct for performance degradations without the need for human oversight, thereby reducing the burden on individual operators. Importantly, this technology will also communicate clear and actionable information about the sources of degradation and allow users to better interpret model uncertainty, and thus help them use their software more effectively.

Learn more here.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITY

BLIMP Prototyping Short Course

MASON INNOVATION EXCHANGE

BLIMP Prototyping Short Course FALL 2024

Do you want to learn how to build and fly Lighter-than-air UAV or

Enjoy an intro to to the world of robotics and autonomy through a ha
experience building a bio-inspired flapping-wing blimp. Working in a
team, students design and build their own flapping wing blimp from

Enthusiastic participants from all majors are encouraged to apply.

Limited to only 18 spots - Apply NOW!

8-week course - Wednesdays Starting Sept. 18

4:30-6:30pm

Hurry! Application Deadline is Sept. 8!

www.mix.gmu.edu/blimp

Questions? MIX@gmu.edu

Unmanned Aerial Systems Prototyping

Drone Prototyping Short Course FALL 2024

MASON INNOVATION EXCHANGE

Do you like problem solving, learning new technology, and making things?
Apply now for the MIX's Drone Program for FALL 2024!
You will work in small teams to design, prototype, and build a drone! Students from all majors, departments, and schools are encouraged to apply.
Limited to 30 spots - Apply Today!
9 week course - **MONDAYS Starting Sept. 23**
4:30-6:30pm - Horizon Hall 1408
Hurry! Application Deadline is Sept. 15
visit: mix.gmu.edu/drone
Questions? MIX@gmu.edu

CCI OPPORTUNITIES

Commonwealth Cyber Security Initiative Grant Internship Opportunity

Thanks to the Commonwealth Cybersecurity Initiative Grant, George Mason University is offering undergraduate students from Mason, University of Mary Washington and James Madison University paid

internships with local cybersecurity or tech startups and SMEs.

The objective of this experiential learning opportunity is to encourage students to gain work experience in a tech startup and to familiarize themselves with the world of cyber entrepreneurship, with the hope that one day perhaps, the students can launch their own tech company.

Learn more and apply here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NASA, Earth, and Space

The Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Impact at George Mason University invites you to attend NASA, Earth, and Space – an event featuring Dr. Jack Kaye, associate director for research of the Earth Science Division within NASA's Science Mission Directorate, and a panel of faculty who are currently working on NASA-endorsed projects.

In remarks titled Earth Science to Action: How NASA Views the Earth from Space, Air, and Ground to Advance Science and Inform Decisions, Dr. Kaye will share what is currently happening in space exploration and discuss future possibilities. George Mason researchers will then showcase their exemplary NASA-funded research and highlight their work, discuss outcomes, detail the impact of their research, and explain how others can collaborate or successfully apply for funding. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask Dr. Kaye and panelists questions following their remarks.

Event Information: **September 4** from **1:00 PM** to **2:30 PM EST** at the **JC Cinema, George Mason Fairfax Campus**

Learn more and register here.

AWARDS

Congratulations to:

Murphy, Amy from the Schar School Policy and Government for receiving the Arlington County grant on *Arlington County RNR Simulation Tool*

Durant, Liza Price Wilson from the College of Engineering and Computing for receiving the Virginia Innovation Partnership grant on *Commonwealth Cyber Initiative Traineeship Program (CCI)*

Yang, Lishan from the [Department of Computer Science](#) for receiving the NSF grant on *Cloud Infrastructure-Enabled Training for AI in Educational Research and Assessment*

Guo, Xiaonan from the [Department of Information Science and Technology](#) for receiving the NSF grant on *Securing Public Safety with WiFi-based In-baggage Suspicious Object Detection*

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[National Science Foundation - Dear Colleague Letter: Design for Sustainability in Computing](#)

Deadline: **Continuous Submission**

[National Science Foundation - Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE): Core Programs](#)

Deadline: **Continuous Submission**

[National Science Foundation - National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Funds over $7.5 Million in National Secure Data Service Demonstration Project](#)

Deadline: **Continuous Submission**

***If a funding opportunity limits the number of applications the university can submit, it will be posted and managed through the Research Development Services office. Please contact limited@gmu.edu or Sheila Davis sdavis46@gmu.edu if you have questions or are unsure if the opportunity is a limited submission opportunity.

IDIA AFFILIATION

Did you know that, as an IDIA faculty affiliate, you are eligible to:

Compete for [internally funded IDIA projects](#)

Receive support for [IDIA-relevant events](#)

Become part of the [dynamic multidisciplinary faculty network](#) focused on digital techniques and technologies to advance fields as diverse as finance, education, built infrastructure, science, economics, agriculture, health, transportation, entertainment, national security, and social justice.

There is no financial burden to you or your departments for affiliation with the institute. Participation in IDIA does not prevent its members from being associated with other university centers. If you are not already affiliated, we encourage you to submit your profile [here](#).

SHARE WITH US

We are eager to hear from you! As we work with your colleges to compile updates on digital innovation-related research activities at Mason, we would love to hear about your research activities, awards, and recent publications. Please share any successes, concerns, or ideas with us at **idia2@gmu.edu**